

## **NEWS RELEASE**

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ALBUQUERQUE FIELD OFFICE ■ 435 MONTANO NE ■ ALBUQUERQUE NM 87107

Danita Burns ■ Public Affairs Officer ■ 505.761.8713

For Immediate Release January 6, 2004

For Additional Information Kathy Walter, 505.761.8794

## Road Closure at Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument

ALBUQUERQUE – The northwestern access road between Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument and the village of Ponderosa, in the Santa Fe National Forest is closed until further notice due to adverse weather conditions.

The Bureau of Land Management, Albuquerque Field Office, locked the gate located on Forest Service Road 266 that traverses through the north western portion of Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument. In concert with the BLM, the US Forest Service, Jemez Ranger District, closed the gate at Ponderosa on State Road 290.

Seasonally these gates are closed for public safety. Kathy Walter, BLM-Albuquerque's National Landscape and Conservation System manager, maintains that the road is usually traveled by hunters and hikers but added "we want to ensure all segments of the public are informed about this closure."

The main 5-mile access road to Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument is still open to all visitors.

For questions concerning this seasonal road closure, please contact the BLM-Albuquerque Field Office at 505-761-8700.

Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument is located in north central New Mexico near Santa Fe. The light-colored cone-shaped tent rock formations are the products of explosive volcanic eruptions that occurred between 6 and 7 million years ago. The Bureau of Land Management, in cooperation with the Pueblo de Cochiti and Sandoval County, manages the monument.

-30-

**EDITORS NOTE**: State Road 290 at Ponderosa connects with Forest Service Road 10 and traverses through the Santa Fe National Forest and a portion of the Jemez Pueblo Reservation. Continuing east, Forest Service Road 10 connects with Forest Service Road 266 at Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument.

